



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

A

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/916,971	07/26/2001	Phyllis A. Ellendman	10007711-1	8593
7590	11/15/2005		EXAMINER	
			ROSWELL, MICHAEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2173	

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/916,971	ELLENDMAN, PHYLLIS A.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael Roswell	2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 September 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to the Appeal Brief filed 6 September 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Meister et al (US Patent 6,671,718), hereinafter Meister.

Regarding claim 1, Meister teaches a method for sending an e-mail message, by removing from any addresses specified in a "To" field of the e-mail message, any addresses within a field of the e-mail message used to specify addresses to be removed from the "To" field, and sending the e-mail message, taught as the use of a "Modify Addresses" control of the e-mail message that allows a user to selectively modify and remove the intended recipients of an e-mail message, including those found in the "To" field, at col. 3, lines 45-50.

Regarding claims 2-3, Meister teaches removing selected addresses specified in a "Cc" field and a "Bcc" field, taught as the use of a "Modify Addresses" control of the e-mail message that allows a user to selectively modify and remove the intended recipients of an e-mail message, including those found in the "To" field, at col. 3, lines 45-50.

Regarding claims 4-5, Meister teaches at least one subset of addressed to be removed from the “To” field being specified using a group list or at least one group list and at least one individually listed addresses, taught as the ability to assign aliases to groups of e-mail addresses, as seen in Fig. 3, and the selective removal of specified addresses, at col. 3, lines 45-50.

Regarding claim 6, Meister teaches the ability to remove addresses from a “To” field by way of a dialog for removing addresses from any and all fields in an e-mail message used to specify addressees, at col. 3, lines 45-50.

Regarding claims 7-8, Meister teaches the ability to remove addresses from a “To” field, a “Cc” field and a “Bcc” field by way of a dialog for removing addresses from any and all fields in an e-mail message used to specify addressees, at col. 3, lines 45-50.

Regarding claim 9, Meister teaches a “To” field for listing primary addresses to receive a message, and a field used to specify addresses to be removed from the “To” field in preparation for sending the message, taught as the use of a “Modify Addresses” control of the e-mail message that allows a user to selectively modify and remove the intended recipients of an e-mail message, including those found in the “To” field, at col. 3, lines 45-50.

Regarding claims 10-11, and 13, Meister teaches removing selected addresses specified in a “Cc” field and a “Bcc” field, taught as the use of a “Modify Addresses” control of

the e-mail message that allows a user to selectively modify and remove the intended recipients of an e-mail message, including those found in the "To" field, at col. 3, lines 45-50.

Regarding claim 12, Meister teaches a dialog for removing addresses from any and all fields in an e-mail message used to specify addressees, at col. 3, lines 45-50.

Regarding claim 14, Meister teaches removing selected addresses specified in a "To" field, a "Cc" field and a "Bcc" field by way of a field used to specify addresses to be removed from the address fields, taught as the use of a "Modify Addresses" control of the e-mail message that allows a user to selectively modify and remove the intended recipients of an e-mail message, at col. 3, lines 45-50.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Roswell whose telephone number is (571) 272-4055. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 6:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2173

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael Roswell
11/14/2005



CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER